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Red Nose Day

Fun for charity

AEF:
Bent, not broken

Top fuelers
POL wins Golden Drum



JET 48 Vol. 30 No. 9
Friday, March. 7, 2003

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ON THE COVER

Senior Airman Chris Schroeder, 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Management Flight storage attendant, takes a liquid oxygen sample from an aircraft servicing cart after issue. *Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman.* For story, see Pages 12 and 13.

AEF: Bending, but not broken

BY MAJ. GEN. TIMOTHY A. PEPPE

SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR AIR AND SPACE EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

The air and space expeditionary forces concept survives, but both it and our airmen are being stressed to the limit.

Increased operations and the potential for more are placing demands on our armed forces like never before. In our Air Force, these demands exceed current steady-state requirements in operations Northern Watch and Southern Watch and in Bosnia. AEF 7 and 8 airmen are frozen in place, and some airmen in AEFs 9 and 10 have been tagged way ahead of schedule.

But despite these pressures, the AEF concept will survive.

The AEFs were created as an organizational and scheduling mechanism designed to spread Air Force capabilities across the force, and to produce scheduling predictability for our airmen.

The idea was to rotate airmen through these commitments on a 90-day cycle once every 15 months or so. Knowing when they were in a training mode or when they were on call well in advance allowed airmen to plan their professional and personal lives around these obligations. This new AEF organizational "construct" was maturing well when world events caused the demand for Air Force capabilities to increase dramatically.

Today, because of the global war on terrorism, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Noble Eagle and other possible contingencies, the pressure on the Air Force has caused us to adjust procedures to meet the challenge.

AEF can function in two types of environments: steady-state and crisis. A single on-call AEF pairing (for example, AEFs 1 and 2) can meet steady-state requirements.

Crisis response requires resources beyond those available in a single "on-call" pair. This allows the Air Force to respond to any situation our leaders deem appropriate to achieve our national security objectives.

The rotational AEF construct was designed to support limited-scale requirements, and three-month rotations of one AEF pair became the definition of steady-state. A situation demanding more than one AEF pair places the AEF into a "crisis" mode, whereby the AEF flexes, as necessary, to meet increased requirements. One of the measures available is to "reach forward" to the next, most available AEF pair or pairs before they would otherwise come up on the schedule.

Our Air Force currently operates at a much higher tempo than when AEFs were first devised. Many people are serving tours in excess of 135 days, i.e. mobility, special operations, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and other stressed career fields.

Current demands are also pulling forces from more than one AEF pair. The procedures for meeting this challenge require forces to be drawn from the pairs closest to their vulnerability zone, typically done by exhausting forces from the previous AEF pair and/or dipping into the next AEF pair.

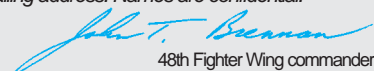
Senior Air Force leaders have initiated several short- and long-term solutions that will alleviate some of the strains placed upon our stressed career fields. These include retraining, reallocation of new airmen into different training pipelines, increasing the number of career field authorizations and changing the way we determine our manpower requirements.

Although we face changing AEF rotation timing, we make every effort to preserve the AEF sequence. This gives the Air Force the ability to sustain operations over the long term. When the world situation changes and requirements for Air Force capabilities lessens, the Air Force will return to a more normalized three-month AEF battle rhythm.

The AEF system is bending, but it's not broken. And it's that ability to bend – or flex – that makes our Air Force and our airmen the best in the world. Our enormous ability to adapt to an incredibly wide array of options is why the U.S. Air Force is, more often than not, called on to be the first responder to national security challenges around the globe.

YOUR LINK TO THE COMMANDER

The Action Line is your direct link to me for complaints, suggestions or comments. It's not intended to replace the chain of command. When normal command agency channels haven't been able to resolve your concerns, call 226-2324, fax 226-5637, e-mail (Action.Line@lakenheath.af.mil), send through distribution (48 FW/PA), mail (48FW/PA, Unit 5210 Box 215 APO AE 09461-0215), or hand carry your Action Line to the public affairs office (Building 1085). You may remain anonymous; however, to receive a reply, please leave your name, unit, duty or home phone number, and full APO mailing address. Names are confidential.


48th Fighter Wing commander

Swimming pool concerns

I'd like to bring to your attention the hazardous health conditions of the indoor swimming pool on base.

1) The showers never work correctly. There is either cold water or (on most days) scalding hot water. There is no way to adjust the water temperature.

2) Last Tuesday, the heater in the women's changing and shower area did not work. Condensed water was dripping off the ceiling and the lockers for large items had black mildew stains on the inside. (My jacket hung against the wall. I had to use the hair dryer to dry off the inside of my jacket.)

I have talked to the personnel at the swimming pool and was told that conditions have been like this for at least seven years and there was nothing that could be done about it.

I have tried to get in touch with the management at the Outdoor Recreation Center but no one answered the phone.

There are many other women as frustrated as I am. I am aware that this is an old facility. But if it is possible to have adjustable water temperatures in the showers at the gym, it should be possible to do the same at the swimming pool.

I'd also like to point out that inhaling mildew spores is a health hazard to children and people who have or had cancer or have other immune deficiencies.

As much as I enjoy swimming, I am now to the point of considering quitting swimming.

Thank you for taking the time to address your concerns on the base swimming pool. We agree. There are several challenges in maintaining an aged pool that gets a tremendous amount of use supporting a wide array of programs for both RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall. No doubt, the pool is in desperate need of a major renovation. In fact, the pool was scheduled to undergo a comprehensive refurbishment this fiscal year. However, the

funds for this project, as well as others, were deferred due to severe fiscal 2003 funding constraints. Included in the scope of this project were new adjustable shower mixers for all showers at the swimming pool and a new heating and ventilation system. The new system was designed to adequately move the air throughout the facility and to reduce the humidity levels throughout the year. Additionally, a heated deck apron was to be installed around the entire pool to assist in the heating of the facility. Additional work within the project included a new pool water treatment and circulation plant, new wall tiling and painting in the changing and shower rooms and minor redecorating through the facility. We are still hopeful of receiving the funding for this project by the end of this fiscal year.

In the interim, I'm happy to report our first class civil engineer team repaired the shower mixers to regulate the water temperature and they repaired the heaters in the changing rooms. The condensation in the changing rooms was the result of the incorrect heater operation. We are diligently working to control the mildew in the facility and have included the interior and exterior of the lockers on our daily and weekly housekeeping tasks. If you get a chance, thank our CE team for the repair work, then put on your goggles and keep swimming!

MFH assigning homes again

BY 1ST LT CHRIS WATT

48TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Base officials lifted the freeze on the distribution of military family housing here Feb. 24.

Consequently, members of the 48th Fighter Wing Housing Management Office are now offering homes in all military housing areas to people on the waiting list to move into immediately.

The list was frozen to create housing vacancies in case the new contract for the Lord's Walk housing area was not approved and it was necessary to move the current residents out of the area. The reactivation of distribution of housing comes after contract negotiators reached a deal that is mutually agreeable to U.S. Air Forces in Europe and the owners of the

property, Balmcrest Estates Ltd. The next step is to request final approval from the Air Staff and, finally, notification to Congress.

The new nine-year deal provides opportunities over the first three years of the lease for the wing and USAFE authorities to consider whether to purchase the property or hand the property back to the owners in phases over the remaining six years of the lease.

Since the current lease ends April 30, an interim lease is under negotiation to prevent current Lord's Walk residents from having to move before the new contract can be approved and signed.

"Our people are our top priority," said Lt. Col. Tom Quasney, 48th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. "We are doing everything we can to ensure we get the best possible housing available."

AFOSI recruiting

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations headquarters recruiting team will visit RAF Lakenheath from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 17, in the Liberty Room at the Eagles' Landing. People interested in an AFOSI career should bring a records review RIP available at their orderly rooms.

To be eligible, you must be a senior airman with less than six years in service or a staff sergeant through master sergeant with outstanding records and less than 12 years of active military service. People stationed overseas must be within 13 months of their date eligible for return from overseas.

Officers must have less than 12 years total active federal military service and less than six years total active federal commission service to apply. For more information on AFOSI special agent duty prior to the recruiting team's visit, www.dtic.mil or call AFOSI

Health care council meeting

The 48th Medical Group quarterly health care council meeting is March 20 at 3 p.m. in the 100th Air Refueling Wing conference room. The forum is to discuss medical topics and issues. The meeting is open to everyone from the RAF Lakenheath and Mildenhall communities. It is a required meeting for all unit health care monitors.

Pass and registration appointments

The pass and registration office at RAF Lakenheath implements a new appointment-only system beginning March 24. Walk-in service will no longer be available. The new system is designed to reduce waiting times and allow for more pre-planning and personalized customer service.



Staff Sgt. Kathleen Duncan
48th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Hometown: Bensenville, Ill.
Time in service: 13 years
Time on station: One year
Role in mission: Public health craftsman
Hobbies: Reading and watching movies
Favorite book: "The Lord of the Rings" books by J.R.R. Tolkien
How do you contribute to the wing mission? By ensuring personnel are medically cleared for deployment
What's the most exciting experience you've had in the Air Force? Providing medical support to the President of the United States and Air Force One on Sept. 11, 2001
Who is your role model and why? My grandmother, because she went through a lot of adversity in her life and she endured

50 years of news

In accordance with USAFE Movement Order 59-13 and USAFE General Order Number 2, Jan. 14, 1960, Headquarters, 48th Tactical Fighter Wing, closed at Chaumont Air Base, France, and opened at RAF Lakenheath, England. Two of the 48th Fighter Group's original members, present when the Group first occupied Ibsley, England, were assigned to the Liberty Wing in 1960. Master Sgt. James Watcher, a bomb loading private in 1944, returned to Lakenheath as a munitions supervisor. "I really enjoyed England the first time but I think I'm going to enjoy this tour even more because I don't have to look for Messerschmitts! Even better, I don't have to watch our pilots take off and wonder if they'll be coming back," he said.



Courtesy photo

Services prepare for 'Lemay' week

BY JEFF MARTINSON

48TH SERVICES SQUADRON

For the third time in four years, the 48th Services Squadron won honors as best in U.S. Air Forces in Europe. With that accomplished, the squadron is preparing to compete for the Curtis E. LeMay services award of excellence next week.

The 48th SVS continues to put service of customers first, according to Maj. Stephen Dale, 48th SVS commander.

"Providing the best customer service is our number one goal," said Dale. "The squadron sets the tone for customer service and enhances the morale and way of life for the Lakenheath community."

To achieve these levels of service, the 48th SVS continues to enhance its programs and facilities.

With \$13.9 million in ongoing projects and \$14 million in new approved projects, 2002 proved a successful year for base improvements. The new \$5.3 million child development center offers 200 additional spaces and eliminated a five month waiting list. The facility, combined with child care providers, achieved a 4.8

customer service rating based on a five-point scale. The year also introduced a new \$963,000 outdoor recreation center.

In addition to new facilities, RAF Lakenheath underwent a facelift. Newcomers will see lodging improvements that include new kitchens, furniture and voicemail logging systems.

"We want everyone staying in the Liberty Lodge to feel comfortable," said Dale. "We want guests to feel like they are as close to home as possible."

Positive changes were also made to dining facilities. With a high demand for great pizza, the Great Little Pizza Place answered the need with an improved and expanded dining area. The Breckland Pines Golf Course took their popular steak house and added a new full-service bar.

All of the dining facilities strive to maintain the high standards that were set by our consolidated clubs, which have been recognized as Best in USAFE 2002 and the two wing dining facilities that were awarded the 2002 USAFE Food

Excellence Award.

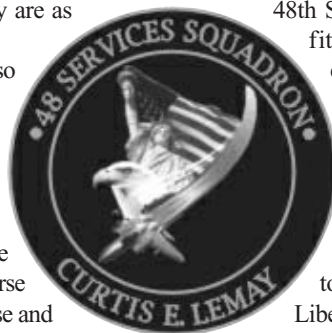
Without question, physical fitness plays a critical role in military readiness. The fitness center staff here provided superior fitness programs, equipment and services.

"You'll be hard pressed to find a more professional or knowledgeable fitness staff in all of USAFE," said Dale.

To provide these quality services here, the 48th SVS recognizes the need for up-to-date fitness equipment and facilities. For example, a new NBA-quality maple wood basketball floor was installed in 2002.

The Air Force-Level Curtis E. LeMay Service Award is a standard to which all of the 48th SVS would like to be held. The 48th SVS members' goal is to improve the quality of life for all Liberty Wing customers.

"The services team, military and civilian, work together allowing our Liberty Warriors to concentrate on their mission. We are proud professionals, never satisfied with simple compliance, but visionaries of excellence," said Dale.



Terrorist threat brings Lajes basketball teams home

BY STAFF SGT. BEVERLY ISIK

65TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LAJES FIELD, Azores — Thirty students from here returned home safely Feb. 13 after wing and school officials realized they were sending the teenagers into a potentially dangerous situation at London's Heathrow Airport.

As Lajes High School basketball players and cheerleaders were waiting in Lisbon, Portugal, for a connecting flight to a regional basketball tournament and cheerleading competition at RAF Alconbury, near London, the British airport beefed up security.

However, before the students left Lajes, senior leaders and Office of Special Investigations officials here, and in England, evaluated the threat level. All agreed the school trip would be a safe one, according to Col. Mike Giroux, 65th Mission Support Group commander. Then, the security situation at Heathrow escalated changing the circumstances.

Frightened parents started calling the high school's principal, Dr. Jerry Ashby, saying they wanted their children to come home. Fearing the worst, Ashby checked the safety plan filed by the coaches before they left. The plan contained the itinerary, safe haven locations and various telephone numbers, including wireless phone numbers for the coaches.

"I was thinking the worst," Ashby recalled. "What could happen if we sent them on to Heathrow? The Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks

are always on your mind — even before they leave for trips like this."

He hadn't been watching the news. Further, Ashby didn't know about the security change at Heathrow.

"I called my community commander and explained that I had these students in Lisbon getting ready to board a plane in about 20 minutes bound for Heathrow. I needed to know whether to continue the trip or not."

Calina Jones, one of the basketball players, learned about Heathrow's increase in security sitting in Lisbon. She wasn't worried because "the airport was pretty guarded and that should've made it safer for us to land."

By then, Lt. Col. Stuart Hartford, 65th MSG deputy commander, was quickly trying to find out as much as possible.

While waiting for an answer from Hartford, Ashby called the coach on a wireless phone. He told the group not to leave Lisbon until it heard from him.

After talking to Ashby, Hartford contacted Giroux and explained the situation. Giroux also confirmed with the OSI here that increased security measures were in place at Heathrow.

"When I heard they had added an additional 450 soldiers with armored vehicles to an already robust security force, the decision was easy," the colonel said. "We should not be sending our students into a potentially dangerous environment. I felt we had to bring them home."

Ashby said resolving the situation and telling the anxious teenagers they couldn't make the

tournament was easier for him than it might be for principals at the average public school in the United States.

"It's great to have the resources of the military commanders here," he said. "It's comforting to know they have information that I may not have — even if they can't share it with me, I know they'll make the right decision."

Master Sgt. John Riley's daughter Erica was also part of the group. When he heard about the situation at Heathrow on the TV, the first thing that entered his mind was, "Where are they?"

Once he found out they were in Lisbon and coming home, Riley was relieved.

"Whoever made the decision to bring them home, whether it be one, two or many people, it was the right decision and I'm glad they did it," Riley said. "It's sad for the kids that they had to miss the tournament after they worked so hard."

Calina didn't see a reason for all the fuss.

"The plane continued to London, so I feel we would have been fine," she said. "There were people who continued on the plane who we knew were going to England."

"I know it was a precaution. I understand why they did it. I'm just upset that we weren't able to play," she added.

Riley summed up the parental experience by relating it to how he views the world today.

"It's a fact of life," Riley said. "We're going to have to deal with this from here on out, no matter where we are. Terrorism doesn't just happen overseas anymore. They are coming into our territory now; anything is possible."

Fairford gets "BUFF" to support War on Terror

BY STAFF SGT. KRISTINA BARRETT

RAF FAIRFORD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RAF FAIRFORD, England — Approximately a half dozen B-52 Stratofortress aircraft arrived Monday from Minot Air Force Base, N.D. to support the war on terrorism and possible future contingency operations.

In addition, almost 300 airmen have deployed to RAF Fairford in support of the aircraft, with more than 600 more scheduled to arrive in the coming weeks.

"The maintenance crews and support personnel assembled here are vital parts of the team that make the mission successful," said Col. Daniel Charchian, commander of the 457th Air Expeditionary Group. "It takes a total team effort to

complete the mission and I have full faith in their ability to go above and beyond and carry out any mission they may be called upon to perform."

RAF Fairford was selected to receive the aircraft because of the runway length and the ability to be activated at short notice at any given time. Fairford is also still used as an alternate emergency landing site for the space shuttle. The base's mission is to support U.S. and NATO bomber and contingency operations in the North European region and is one of four bomber forward operating locations.

The B-52, affectionately called a "BUFF" by the bomber community, is a long-range, large capacity bomber and capable of flying at high subsonic speeds at altitudes up to 50,000 feet.



A B-52 lands at RAF Fairford Monday in support of the ongoing war on terrorism.

Photo by Maj. Laurent Fox

Providing 'fuel for the duel'

POL pride gains 'Golden' prize

Airman First Class Ron Ritter and Senior Airman Eric Fricke, 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Management Flight, pull an R-11 refueler hose to inspect it during morning checkpoint operations.

**Story and photos by
Master Sgt Will Ackerman**

In the movie "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," people searched for five elusive "golden tickets," which entitled the recipients to a tour of the secretive Wonka factory and possible wealth.

For airmen assigned to the 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Management Flight, their sights were on a "golden" prize that eluded the flight for 26 years. But instead of chocolate and wealth, the prize was a "Golden Drum." The flight, better known as "POL," earned the award recently for being the best fuels management flight in U.S. Air Forces in Europe for fiscal 2002.

The flight's manager said that although the airmen always provide top-notch fuel and cryogenics service to the 48th Fighter Wing, he knew the elusive "Golden Drum" was obtainable when he arrived here two and a half years ago.

"I set the goal for the flight to be the very best. I saw how hard the troops worked but not get the recognition they deserved," said Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Campbell, 48th LRS fuels manager.

So he set a flight goal to implement "continuous improvement," with a focus on two themes: figuring out how to be expeditionary and bringing innovation to every procedure.

With more than 50 people from the flight deployed for a total of 4,682 days in fiscal 2002, Campbell said they had to be innovative to meet the deployed mission yet still meet the wing's home-station mission, which is busy, considering the 48th Fighter Wing is the only F-15 wing in Europe and a lead Air and Space Expeditionary Force wing.

"We were able to meet the wing's busy flying hour program without making our airmen work extra hours because we were smart with (duty) hours," Campbell said. For example, the flight implemented flexible duty hours, which ensured more airmen were on duty during the F-15 recovery times than during quiet periods.

And get gas on the F-15s they did, more than 30 million gallons of JP8+100 jet fuel in fiscal 2002, all with 17 6,000-gallon R-11 refueling trucks, without a single safety-related mishap, according to Campbell. They even helped the wing set a new single-day fuel issue record in May 2002, fueling 128

F-15 sorties with 291,015 gallons of jet fuel.

But the flight's innovativeness didn't stop there. The bulk fuel storage systems the flight uses to refill the R-11 refuelers are 45 years old, which requires the flight's airmen to meticulously inspect them daily for problems. To give the airmen "pride of ownership," and to "groom" future supervisors, the flight created a "dedicated crew chief" program, which assigns one airmen to "own" each system.

"This ensures prompt action for discrepancies to keep our mission-critical fillstands operational to meet flying hour demands," said Staff Sgt. Richard Clark, 48th LRS Fuels bulk storage supervisor.

This innovative mindset, according to one of the USAFE evaluators, made Lakenheath POL stand out from other flights they competed against.

"They are very innovative and very motivated," said Chief Master Sgt. Stanley Walker, USAFE fuels functional manager. "They will do anything ... to get the gas on the airplanes."

With such a busy mission, and with so many troops deployed, the flight's second objective is training. So they changed the upgrade training program for newly assigned three-levels, which reduced their Career Development Course and core task training from six months to four.

"The training process gave us a deployable POL troop from technical school ... ready to go ... with the confidence to do the job down range," said Stanley.

Although the Golden Drum specifically honors POL here, the support the rest of the wing gives to the flight's mission was "key" to the flight's win, said Stanley. "It was evident the wing knew, used and depended on (Lakenheath POL) each day to accomplish the mission."

The flight now competes against the 96th Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., and the 3rd Wing, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, for the Air Force-level American Petroleum Institute Award, which recognizes the wing's commitment to outstanding fuel support. Results should be announced in mid-March.

Although Team Liberty POL finally found the secret after 26 years to win USAFE's "golden" prize, Roberts said the "sweetest" treat for the flight's airmen is to bring the API award to RAF Lakenheath.

"It would be great to say, 'I was part of the flight here that finally won it!'"



Airman First Class Dshante Lucas (by truck), 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Management Flight distribution operator, finishes a fuel servicing to an F-15E Strike Eagle.



Staff Sgt Michael McDaniel, 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Management Flight laboratory technician, takes a pipeline sample during a fuels receipt.



Airman First Class Tina Nelson, 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Management Flight distribution operator, removes a fillstand hose from her R-11 refueler after filling it with fuel.

Liberty Wing Doc chases snowboard title

Parker makes his competition run in Italy.

Courtesy photos

48TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

STAFF REPORT

It was only three months ago when Liberty medic Lt. Col. (Dr.) William Parker first considered learning how to snowboard. Following weeks of intense practice and multiple flights to the slopes of Garmisch, Germany, Parker took first place points in his category at the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Snowboarding Giant Slalom Championships in Italy Feb 23.

The victory was sweet, but short-lived. Parker, age 58, would have been the undisputed Military Men's Masters Division, age 40-plus, champion, had event organizers not eliminated his category just moments before the race, ultimately merging his results with the age 30 to 39 category due to a lack of participation in his age category.

"It was quite a let down," said Parker. "I went from first place to last place and didn't find out until days after the race. Those age categories help; it's hard to compete with the 30 year olds."

Despite the bad news, Parker still received and applied his first place division points to the Garmisch championship Saturday, only to be placed in the age 30 to 39 category again for a lack of participation in his category.

"Snowboarding hasn't been around as long as skiing. I guess there aren't very many snowboarders over 40," said Parker.

At the championship competition the week prior, the giant slalom course was set up on a steep and icy "black" skill level slope in Piancavallo, Italy. It was the most difficult slope Parker had snowboarded on, he said. In practice runs on the steep portion, Parker fell and slid down the mountain.

"It wasn't looking good," said Parker. "After several hard falls, I was getting nervous. Thirty minutes before the race began, last year's champion, an Air Force sergeant from Aviano Air Base, Italy, gave me a few pointers on the course. It made the difference."

At the start of the race, Parker shot out of the starting line and successfully made it through all the gates. He focused and concentrated on the most difficult section of the run – bending his knees to absorb the shock and shifting his weight from edge to edge as he carved his turns. Near one of the gates he hit an icy area and went into a slide but was able to recover. Parker barreled down the hill, letting out a loud, "Hoo –Ah" as he crossed the finish line.

The doctor had to make two successful runs down the mountain to compete; any loss of balance or a fall resulting in missing a gate would have meant disqualification.

"Preparing for the competition has been pretty exciting," said Parker. "Since it was my first year to snowboard, I had to learn the basics then get my turns smoother as I progressed to steeper and steeper slopes. I took a lot of hard falls, but I stuck with it."

"I expected it would be difficult and discouraging in the beginning. With each day on the slope, I gradually got better and better," said Parker. "Ideally, I would like to be in better condition, be stronger and wish I had been snowboarding longer, but we don't live in an ideal world. The race is now. Sometimes you have to 'Just Do It'."

Parker joined the Air Force in 2002 after being in private dental practice for 27 years in Dallas, Texas. He works at the 48th Dental Squadron.



Parker

Division I High School Basketball Tournament

Division I high school basketball tournament games were held Feb 20-22 in Mannheim, Germany.

Lakenheath High School Lady Lancers:

Division I conference co-champions; placed fourth; Trinity Bursey named to All-Tournament team; Bursey and Andrea McCoy selected Div. I All-Conference.

Lancer boys:

Placed fifth; John Rogers named to All-Tournament team and All-Conference team and Phillip Bell selected for second team All-Conference.



Training...from the Rubble of Khobar



Courtesy photo

On June 25, 1996, a terrorist truck bomb exploded outside the northern perimeter of the U.S. portion of the Khobar Towers housing complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The explosion killed 19 servicemen and wounded hundreds of others, including civilians of several nationalities.

LT COL STEPHEN P. SHEEHY

48TH AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON COMMANDER

Without a doubt, we are part of the greatest Air Force in the world. That's not just a line or a bumper sticker used for recruiting. It's the truth for a simple reason: we train our personnel, regardless of their specialty or rank, from the moment they enter the Air Force until they separate or retire. Our airmen and general officers all receive the training they need. The idea of continued education is one of the prime pillars in making our Air Force the greatest in the world. This continued education gives us something I call instinctive knowledge.

The idea of instinctive knowledge came to me about a year ago at the wing's Chief Induction Ceremony. As I was sitting there eating my meal and talking to the other guests, I noticed a junior NCO across the table from me wearing a ribbon rarely seen. I had some doubt what I was really looking at, so I asked the individual what the medal on his chest was. He very humbly confirmed it was a Purple Heart. After another bite of chicken, my curiosity got the best of me, and I had to ask him how he received it. In a very monotone voice he said, "Sir, I was in Khobar Towers." Now, I have met plenty of people who boast they were at Khobar (Saudi Arabia) before the bombing. I've met even more that proudly claim they were there right after the explosion. But, I never met anyone who was in Khobar Towers when that deadly bomb was set off.

As my admiration for this NCO grew, so did my curiosity. I wanted to know about his experience. That when I received the answer I was not expecting. He said, "Sir, I really didn't know how bad I was. I was lying

there being treated. What I really do remember is watching my fellow airmen jumping into action. They were taking care of me as well as the others that were hurt. They were doing what they were trained to do."

What this American hero witnessed was instinctive knowledge in action. Each of those airmen caring for the others, carrying the wounded down stairs and grabbing fire bottles to fight flash fires were executing the recurring training they've received. Each year we sit through training we don't use in our daily job, like chemical warfare, self-aid and buddy care, and fire extinguisher training. This type of training has many names: annual training, ancillary training or deployment training. Regardless of what it's called, these courses are the foundation of our war-fighting skills.

The knowledge we learn in these courses we never want to use, for if we do, something bad has happened. If the situation arises where these skills are needed, then is not the time to try and remember what that instructor was teaching. When those skills are needed, it is time to leap into action with an instinct, the same way those airmen did in the Khobar Tower tragedy. In a crisis, we must have instinctive knowledge of our wartime skills. When the time comes to wear your ground crew ensemble, you need to put it on with the know-how to ensure it can protect you. When someone needs you to put out a fire or give first aid, his or her life will depend on you and your instinctual knowledge.

When you go to your next training course, please don't just "sit through it." Try to engrain that knowledge deeper into your mind. Think about that NCO who wears the Purple Heart today. He was alive to tell me his story because someone leapt into instinctive action that day. Use those training classes to increase your instinctive knowledge. With growth in that knowledge, you will be ready for any situation. As your instinctive knowledge increases, you continue to make our Air Force the greatest in the world.

What did I say?

BY CAPT. JEFFERSON O'DONNELL

48TH OPERATIONS GROUP

Someone is listening. Someone is watching. It might be a neighbor, the man at the next table in the pub, the man dressed as a repairman “working” on the phone lines, or any of a hundred other people around you in a given week. Are you in danger? Perhaps, but you’re more likely to become a danger to your fellow servicemembers and their families because you have information someone wants.

Imagine the information we collectively maintain as a huge, complex puzzle. Just one person could never hope to piece together a useful picture; but an organization of agents working over a large area could collect and connect enough pieces to compromise our operational and personal security.

Who is responsible for Operations Security?

If you’re reading this article, you have a responsibility for OPSEC. As a family member, if you hear or know possibly sensitive information, protect it because it’s protecting you, your family, and your friends. Be conservative; if you’re not sure, don’t talk about it.

How do I know what I can talk about?

As a civilian employee or military member, your workplace should have a posting defining 48th Fighter Wing Critical Information. For example, critical information includes information relating to our force composition, flying schedule, force protection measures and movement of key personnel. It should go without saying, but information clearly indicated as “classified” or “secret” must also be protected. The bottom line is, if you’re not certain, don’t discuss it until you can consult your unit security manager, supervisor or commander.

How do I maintain and protect critical and classified information?

Our wing commander, Brig. Gen. John Brennan, recently

provided an excellent reminder of good OPSEC procedures:

- Do not discuss sensitive or classified information over non-secure lines.
- Use secure means of communication (SIPRNET, STU-III) whenever possible for all communications.
- Minimize all use of the Internet, e-mail, and telephone.
- Increase your awareness of your surroundings and report anything out of the ordinary.

Use good password practices when generating your local area network account password.

Additionally, if you overhear someone close to or in the process of committing an OPSEC violation, help him or her out. Tactfully interrupt (“Can I talk to you for a moment, sir? It’s very important.”) and change the subject or move to a secure location or communication method. Either way, be certain to discuss and educate the individual regarding the specific incident at some point ... you may not be around to save the person next time.

What are the consequences of failing to uphold OPSEC?

Aside from getting caught, losing your security clearance privileges, receiving administrative punishment or serving prison time, you may never know the most serious consequences. This kind of information collection is naturally covert, and in the very least, subtle. The harmful actions of an adversary could be executed on hundreds or thousands of pieces of information of which you provided only one part. Chances are you won’t remember what you said to help them.

You are the last line of defense in operational security. Perform excellent OPSEC procedures. Be aware of your environment at all times. Watch for suspicious people or activity. Act to prevent violations, but report them when they happen. The Liberty Wing is counting on you to keep our resources safe and accomplish the mission.

Selecting a career vs answering a calling

BY CHIEF MASTER SGT. KALE S. BROWN

48TH MEDICAL GROUP SUPERINTENDENT

My time here at Lakenheath, England will soon come to an end. Just like every Air Force member, I’m looking forward to the challenges of my next assignment. I will always cherish my five years of service here at Team Liberty. My heart has been blessed with memories that will never be erased. I can say without a doubt that the accomplishments of the men and women of the Liberty Wing have been clearly documented in the history books detailing every success story of our Air Force. There were so many success stories that captured my attention and I wanted to share one with you. I was talking with a Senior NCO and he was saying how proud he was of his troops. He kept saying, “They got it...they got it”. Of course I wanted to know what IT was. He began to tell me about a talk he had with a Chief almost 10 years ago. The Chief was telling him about a conversation between two

young men in their early twenties. One of the young men was asking the other for directions to a shopping mall. The young man gave directions and quickly recognized the different hair cut of his counterpart. He asked him if he was new in town and where did he work. The young man stated yes he was new in town but he did not work anywhere; he was IN the Air Force. The Air Force member then asked the young man what he did for a LIVING. The young man stated “I’ve got the career I’ve always wanted working with IBM”. Before I could finish that discussion with the SNCO we were interrupted with the start of the meeting we were attending. Throughout the meeting my mind kept pondering on the conversation between the two young men. All of a sudden, it hit me. One selected his career and the other answered a calling. We all enlisted in the Air Force for numerous reasons. But why do we stay? Why did we reenlist? It’s because we got “IT”. The IT is we did not select a career we answered a calling. Our

nation has been blessed with men and women who have been clearly dedicated to serving their country. We have some of our country’s best and brightest, who could have easily entered any business arena and become a huge success. But they’ve decided to follow the footprints of those who stormed the beaches of Normandy, to touch the fingerprints of those who unlocked the gates to the prison camps of the Holocaust, and some may soon be called to follow the path of aircrafts that traced the skyline of the Middle East that liberated the country of Kuwait. An all-volunteer force that made IT a LIVING. A LIVING that has become a way of life. A life that includes a 24-hour commitment to our country and its citizens. Many of the citizens you may never meet; however your service to your country labels them as a friend. “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friend”. I truly thank YOU for answering your calling and may God continue to bless you all.



Discover Britain

By Sal Davidson – Community Relations Adviser



March 14 – Red Nose Day in United Kingdom

Red Nose Day is a fund-raising event held every two years. It is organized by the charity Comic Relief and has occurred on eight occasions since it began in 1988. Comic Relief was launched from a refugee camp in Sudan in response to famine in Ethiopia. As well as doing something about that very real and direct emergency, the charity expanded its borders to help tackle the broader needs of poor and disadvantaged people in Africa and the United Kingdom.

It began with a few live events, drawing support from many famous comedians. The first Red Nose Day was presented on British television by famous British comedians Lenny Henry, Griff Rhys Jones and Jonathan Ross. It raised more than £15 million.

Each time Red Nose Day occurs, it raises huge amounts of money. The last one in 2001 raised more than £49 million. So, how might this affect an American living in the United Kingdom? Well, soon you'll start to see cars, buses and lorries with big plastic red noses (this year with "big hair" too) stuck to the front. On Red Nose Day, people walk around with red noses made out of plastic. There will also be many charity events and an evening of comedy, fund raising and reports on the charity's work on the British Broadcasting Corp.

So what do they do with all the money?

Comic Relief attracts enormous support from the public as well as commercial organizations and is proud that every pound raised by the public is used entirely for charitable work. Every project supported by Comic Relief helps poor and disadvantaged

people in Britain, Africa or one of the world's poorest countries to make positive changes in their communities.

Over the years, Comic Relief cash in Africa has educated people about HIV and AIDS, taught women to read, immunised children and helped people rebuild their communities after conflicts. Across the United Kingdom, it has helped disabled people challenge prejudice

in a bath full of baked beans for instance, it can be as enjoyable to watch!

In Belfast one year, the Grand Opera House staged a special Red Nose performance of "Brigadoon" (with the actors donning red noses for the final bow) and students consumed anchovy, banana and jelly pies.

In Birmingham, there have been egg and jelly pie-eating contests, barking

competitions and a procession of office workers clad in pants and their mum's slippers.

In Bristol, there was a "hop to work in your slippers" contest and a "bake the most inventive pie" competition (the chicken, chocolate and orange squash version won). Among the many students who got involved were some who staged their own "Weakest Link" and later barricaded people (in a caring and sharing way) into the refectory until they donated some money.

In Cardiff, members of staff from the Chamber of Commerce once attempted to cram as many people as possible into a new car. They managed 15 (including three in the boot), describing the experience as "madcap ... but it made everyone feel good."

How does this affect you?

Well, if you see strange

things happening March 14, get ready with your money – even a few pence makes a difference. You may find your local pub or school has fund-raising events, which are bound to be great fun, so do join in. You can also look on the Comic Relief Web site at www.comicrelief.org.uk or www.rednoseday.com for some ideas, and get some friends together to organize something yourselves.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tiffany Jeltema

Employees and children from the RAF Lakenheath Child Development Center march through base housing wearing shirts they decorated with red noses during Red Nose Day 2001.

and discrimination, supported older people in their fight to get their rights recognised and provided escape routes for women living with domestic violence.

How do people raise money for Comic Relief?

Locally, there will be events in schools and workplaces. These events are always fun and are supported well by the participants and spectators alike. So if you don't fancy sitting

For more information on living in Britain, look in the British community information public folder, or call Sal Davidson, community relations advisor, at 226-3145, or e-mail sal.davidson@lakenheath.af.mil.



Editor's note: A reminder, seven-digit dialing is used for all on base and within Europe DSN calls. Commercial access, dialing 99, will not change. Access code 94 is no longer needed for DSN. Within the DSN 314 prefix, dial only the seven-digit DSN. Outside 314, continue to dial the prefix plus seven digits. The 98 access is no longer used for RAF Mildenhall, use the seven-digit system.

Briefs

Office hours change

The 48th Civil Engineer Squadron Customer Service office, Bldg. 1155, is closed 2 to 4:30 p.m. Fridays for scheduled training.

Deployment briefings

The 48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office conducts deployment outprocessing briefings at 9 and 9:30 a.m. and 1 and 1:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in the public affairs office at the wing headquarters Bldg. 1085. No appointment is necessary.

Office closure

The 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron individual equipment section is closed Monday through March 14 for semi-annual inventory. Emergency and real-world requirements will still be handled.

Youth

Talent show

RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall are co-hosting the annual youth talent show March 17 to March 22.

Food Craft class

The RAF Lakenheath Community Center offers a free, hand-made, food craft class from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday for children age 6 to 10

New Brownie troop

A new Brownie Girl Scout troop will form at RAF Feltwell in mid-March. Brownie Girl Scouts is open to all girls age 6 to 8 years old

or first through third grades. The troop will meet at RAF Feltwell after school on Tuesdays.

CSA scholarships

The Community Scholarship Association has scholarships available for high school seniors who will be entering college or vocational school next year. Students must be dependents of a military or civilian employee at RAFs Lakenheath, Mildenhall or Feltwell. Applications can be picked up from Diane Howder, Lakenheath High School senior class counselor, and are due by March 21.

Events

St. Patrick's Party

The RAF Lakenheath Community Center hosts a St. Patrick's Day family party from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 17.

Homeschool catalog fair

The S.A.F.E. at home homeschool support group hosts a free catalog fair from 1 to 6 p.m. March 22 at the Bob Hope Community Center, RAF Mildenhall. Educators, day-care providers and parents looking for educational materials will be offered catalogs from 200 different educational companies plus free history atlases while supplies last.

Art show

Lakenheath Elementary School holds Rocky's Second Art Extravaganza 6 to 8 p.m. March 20 in the school cafeteria. For more information, e-mail michelle_ruksc@eu.od edodea.edu.

Classes

Family support center

The family support center offers the following classes this week:

Monday

- 11 a.m. - Mandatory pre-separation briefing
- 1 p.m. - E-4 and below financial briefing
- 2 p.m. - Evaluating and negotiating job offers

Tuesday

- 2 p.m. - Basic investing
- 4 p.m. - Common sense parenting

Wednesday

- 9:30 a.m. - Questions and answers for new families about living in Britain offered at Beri Tree's coffeeshop)

- 1 p.m. - PCS with ease

- 1:30 p.m. - Resume writing

- 4 p.m. - Common sense parenting

- 6 p.m. - Bereavement support group

Thursday

- 2 p.m. - U.S. home buying

Friday

No classes offered.



Photo by Senior Airman Lynne Neveu

Pledging to read

Raven Wilson, 6, recites the official "Reader's Oath" during Read Across America Day Feb. 28 at Lakenheath Elementary School. Dr. Seuss characters introduced their books and the Read Instead of Television program was introduced.

MOVIES

RAF Mildenhall 238-2351

Today

6:30 p.m., **Star Trek: Nemesis**, PG-13, starring Patrick Stewart and Jonathan Frakes. The Romulan Empire is thrown into disarray when Shinzon, an exiled slave on the sister planet of Remus, murders the entire senate of the Romulus home world. Now, the mad man wants to use the crew of the enterprise in his scheme to incite a revolution.

9:30 p.m., **Drumline**, PG-13, starring Nick Cannon and Zoe Saldana. Devon, a street drummer from Harlem, enrolls in a southern university, expecting to lead its marching band's drumline to victory. He initially flounders in his new world before realizing that it takes more than talent to reach the top.

Saturday
Noon, **Treasure Planet**, PG, animated. Fifteen-year-old Jim Hawkins joins the crew of an intergalactic expedition as cabin boy aboard a glittering space galleon. Befriended by the ship's cook, a charismatic cyborg named John Silver, Jim blossoms under his guidance, and shows the makings of a fine "spacer" as he and the alien crew battle supernovas.

3:00 p.m., **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, PG, starring Daniel Radcliffe and Alan Rickman. Harry and friends return for their second year at Hogwarts, where things are far more intense than before. This tale will be darker and a bit more frightening, as the young Harry begins to come into his own as a wizard while doing battle with Draco Malfoy, the Slytherin Quidditch team, and an evil and powerful new foe.

6:30 p.m., **Old School**, R, starring Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell and Vince Vaughn. A raucous comedy about a trio of thirty-something buddies who try to recapture the outrageous, irrepressible fun of their college years by starting their own off-campus frat house.

9:00 p.m., **Empire**, R, starring John Leguizamo and Denise Richards. Victor, a Puerto Rican drug dealer, works the violent streets of the South Bronx. With an eye for money and a head for business, he dreams of one day achieving the wealth and success of a legitimate businessman.

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